

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Replace the abstract with the following rewritten version:

“A method for protecting a tuyere assembly (12) and a refractory lining of a furnace, and in particular a blast furnace, against damage caused by expansion of the refractory lining. This method ~~comprises the steps of~~includes providing a clearance (40) between the tuyere assembly (12) and a refractory lining portion (16) below the tuyere assembly (12) and monitoring this clearance (40) by means of a displacement sensor (50).

(Fig. 1)”